

Central Ohio Regional Highlights 2012

Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

Increasing Jobs through Honda's Investment in Central Ohio

Since November 2010, Honda has announced more than \$500 million in investments in its Ohio facilities—creating jobs and strengthening Ohio's auto supply chain. Only a few years ago, our nation's auto industry was on the brink of disaster, but today – because of Ohio's dedicated, highly-skilled workforce and the leadership of officials at Honda – more than 13,500 Ohioans are employed and Honda is now a vital part of our state's economy.

Following a meeting with Honda officials at the Detroit Auto Show in January, Sen. Brown welcomed the news that Honda investments at the Anna Engine Plant and the Russels Point Transmission Plant will bring 150 jobs to Ohio. In February, Honda announced that the company will invest \$98 million at the Anna Engine Plant, in addition to a \$120 million investment at the Russels Point Transmission Plant announced last year.

Preserving Jobs at Springfield's Navistar Plant

Navistar, in Springfield, faced an uncertain future when the company announced layoffs for Springfield workers in 2011. Sen. Brown worked closely with the United Auto Workers (UAW)



and the Springfield community to keep the plant open. In February 2012, Navistar announced that it plans to hire 40 new workers at the Springfield plant. Because of Navistar's dedicated workforce and the strong leadership of the UAW, production at the Springfield plant has doubled and employees are back to work. In October, Brown visited the plant, touring the factory floor, meeting with workers, and discussing the positive trends over the past several years in the manufacturing sector in Ohio.

Urging the Obama Administration to Locate Patent and Trademark Office in Columbus

Ohio offers the advantages of a large state—world-class universities, skilled labor, and a legacy of innovation coupled with Midwestern values and work ethic. As the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) considered sites for a new satellite office, Sens. Brown and Portman and Reps. Stivers and Tiberi urged the Obama administration to place the U.S. PTO office in Columbus.

In January, the Ohio legislators wrote to the Director of the U.S. PTO, in which they noted Ohio's long and storied history of innovation. Central Ohio is an ideal site for the office because 40 percent of the workforce holds bachelors or advanced degrees, and more than 140,000 individuals are enrolled as college students.

Promoting Growth in Ohio's Aerospace Supply Chain

Ohio is not just a leading auto supply state; it is also a leading aerospace supply state. In October, Sen. Brown joined the Airbus Vice President of Procurement and President of the National Composite Center (NCC) in Columbus to announce an agreement to further strengthen the Ohio manufacturing and material supply chain for Airbus. Airbus Americas, NCC, and the Dayton Development Coalition will work together to promote new growth and business opportunities through Ohio's aerospace supply chain.



Creating Jobs at New IBM Analytics Center

Scaling up research and development (R&D) is not a Republican or Democratic issue; it is not a private sector or government issue; creating jobs and investing in new R&D is about doing what is best for Ohio. Sen. Brown applauded the November opening of IBM's new analytics center in Dublin that is expected to create 500 new jobs in Central Ohio. According to IBM, the new center will advance R&D, client services, and skills training in the areas of analytics, big data, and cognitive computing. The company will add as many as 500 new consultants and R&D professionals over the next three years. IBM will also partner with the Ohio State University to collaborate on curriculum to train the next generation of analytics professionals.

Protecting Ohio Call Center Jobs

Most Ohioans that have had to call a major company for a service repair or to get an answer about their bill have ended up speaking with a worker in a different time zone, on a different continent. When companies send call center jobs overseas, they don't just frustrate consumers—they hurt our economy as well. With more than 198,000 call center jobs in Ohio, Sen. Brown joined local call center workers in Columbus in September to announce his support for new legislation that could keep these jobs in the U.S. by requiring companies to notify consumers that their calls are being transferred abroad. Sen. Brown discussed how the legislation could encourage companies to keep their call center jobs here in the United States. The bill would stop giving American tax dollars to big businesses that ship call center jobs overseas.

Promoting Tourism and Boosting Economic Development in Central Ohio

Ohio has a strong tourism industry but there is more to be done to make sure visitors know about all of Ohio's world-class attractions. During a working conference call in July, Sen. Brown discussed strategies for boosting Ohio's tourism industry with representatives from the Ohio Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the Columbus Zoo, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and other Ohio stakeholders. They were also joined by Brand USA, a new public-private entity that seeks to bring more visitors to the U.S. and to create economic activity and jobs in Ohio and across the nation. Washington needs Ohio's ideas and it is important for Sen. Brown to hear from Ohio's tourism industry leaders to help put their ideas into action.

Addressing the Challenges of Shale Development

Ohio has already seen how development of the Marcellus and Utica shale has boosted our state's steel and chemical industries, created jobs, and provided a cleaner burning fuel source. But we must ensure that our air and water are protected for current and future generations. Sen. Brown announced that Ohio University and Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus will receive resources for projects to advance sustainable shale development practices. The grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Energy, will address potential issues while reducing the environmental impact of shale development. The research at Battelle and Ohio University will advance safety while minimizing any negative environmental impact from shale development.

Advancing Energy Research Projects in Central Ohio

Clean energy is the future of our nation and can bolster Ohio's economy and create jobs. In August, Sen. Brown announced that Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus and Det Norske Veritas in Dublin will receive funds to help improve electrical grid efficiency and reliability and provide increased energy security to the armed forces. The projects are 2 of 19 projects in 14 states supported through the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program's Advanced Management and Protection of Energy-Storage Devices and Small Business Innovation Research Programs. Sen. Brown believes that increased research and development on new clean energy technologies will drive innovation, lower costs, and reduce our dependence on foreign energy.

Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Central Ohio Jobs

Fighting Unfair Trade Practices to Aid Ohio Steel

With China, our trade deficit is ever expanding, and every time China dumps cheaper goods in our markets and blocks their markets from our goods, it means fewer jobs for American workers. It means American businesses like Nucor in Marion are being undercut and undermined. During a visit to Nucor in April, Sen. Brown outlined efforts to keep jobs in Ohio by fighting back against unfair trade practices and called on the House of Representatives to pass two Senate-approved, bipartisan pieces of legislation to stand up for American steel manufacturers that are being undermined by foreign competition.



Keeping Manufacturing in Ohio at Circleville's DuPont Plant

Sen. Brown fought to pass the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit and has championed legislation to extend the now-expired tax credit. In May, Sen. Brown applauded the completion of the DuPont plant in Circleville, which received \$50 million in assistance through the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit. The DuPont project created more than 70 permanent jobs and 230 construction jobs at its Circleville plant.

Standing Up For a Hilliard Manufacturer

The Mexican government is using unfair trade practices to illegally shut out American Manufacturers like Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS). Based in Hilliard, ADS employs more

than 700 workers and is the world's largest producer of corrugated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes used for drainage and sewage systems. Though ADS has an existing presence in Mexico, the Mexican government illegally shut out American producers by arbitrarily imposing a technical standard that would bar the use of all HDPE pipes. In response, Sen. Brown called on the U.S. Trade Representative to utilize the newly created Interagency Trade Enforcement Center and stand up for ADS. Using technical regulations and standards to restrict trade is illegal under the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Sen. Brown's letter asked Ambassador Ron Kirk to work with the Mexican government to comply with its legal obligations with WTO and NAFTA.

Ensuring a Level Playing Field for Ohio Manufacturers

The manufacturing industry in Central Ohio and across our state is bouncing back but challenges remain—and that is why we cannot turn a blind eye when countries like China cheat trade laws.

In October, Sen. Brown visited a Columbus steel foundry to call on House Speaker John Boehner to schedule a vote on his legislation that punishes China for cheating trade laws. Sen. Brown met with workers and toured Columbus Castings. He was joined by CEO Rick Ruebusch, who discussed how his company—a manufacturer of undercarriage components for rail cars and a variety of heavy-duty industrial components—is facing the prospect of Chinese companies selling unfairly underpriced, low-grade products in the U.S. Columbus Castings is the largest single-site steel foundry in North America, and has been a fixture on the Ohio manufacturing landscape for 110 years.



Sen. Brown's bill has broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate and would punish China when it cheats, but has languished in the House for almost a year. Ohio workers and businesses can compete with anyone when we ensure a level playing field—including addressing China's currency manipulation— but Ohio businesses cannot wait any longer for action.

Helping Central Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Assisting Small Businesses Affected by NHL Lockout

The Columbus Blue Jackets bring hockey fans from Ohio and around the nation to Columbus's Arena District. Restaurants, shops, and hotels in Columbus rely on the revenue brought in from Blue Jackets games to stay in business and keep Ohio workers employed. Without these games, many businesses are scrambling to make ends meet. With the ongoing National Hockey League (NHL) lockout and cancelled All-Star game costing Columbus businesses millions of dollars in lost revenue, Sen. Brown called on the Small Business Administration (SBA) to host workshops in Central Ohio and offer assistance to businesses that have lost revenue because of the shortened hockey season. Sen. Brown is also working to ensure that the NHL commits to Columbus as the 2015 All-Star game host.

Increasing Opportunities for Businesses and Workers in Licking County

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority has a strong record of expanding businesses to create jobs. In December, Sen. Brown authored an amendment as part of the National Defense Authorization Act that would expand economic development and create jobs in Licking County by allowing the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority to reestablish its designation as a Small Business Administration (SBA) HUBZone through 2015. This designation gives small businesses in the area—or those that employ residents of the area—preferential access to federal procurement opportunities in order to encourage economic development and jobs creation in the region. Sen. Brown’s amendment was included in the final National Defense Authorization Act signed by the president in December.

Building Central Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation

Meeting with Local Businesses to Urge Passage of the Highway Bill

Investment in road construction projects like the I-71/670 interchange in Columbus put Ohioans back to work, while promoting economic growth. With critical funds to complete the I-71/670 interchange at risk of lapsing, quick action was needed. More than 300 Ohio jobs were at risk if funds were not renewed by congress to complete this project. Additionally, unless the bill was reauthorized other critical roadwork projects would halt and Ohio stood to lose an estimated \$1.39 billion, jeopardizing more than 50,050 Ohio jobs.



In March, Sen. Brown met with workers on the interchange project and local business owners at the 2011 “Best New Restaurant” Yellow Brick Pizza in the Old Towne East neighborhood of Columbus. Sen. Brown stood with local businesses who expressed fear that delayed construction would hurt revenue. Sen. Brown urged passage of the bill and called on the house to reverse dangerous cuts to highway funding in its version.

Improving Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility and Expanding Market Access

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility is a critical logistics center for Columbus and an integral piece of the Heartland Corridor that links the Midwest to deep-water ports in Norfolk, Virginia. In June, new federal resources were announced to expand the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility, creating jobs and opening Central Ohio companies to new markets. The grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will complete the East-West connector, improving roadways around the intermodal facility and linking the facility to US Route 23, Interstate 270, and Interstate 71. The East-West Connector serves as an important gateway for Ohio businesses to send and sell their goods domestically and internationally. This public-private partnership will allow Ohio businesses to increase productivity, create jobs, and boost Ohio’s economy. Greater Columbus is already a leader in logistics and this investment of federal resources will continue to help bring jobs to Ohio.

Unveiling a New Security Gate at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base

Sen. Brown helped to unveil a new security gate at Rickenbacker Air National Guard base in October. Sen. Brown secured the \$1.6 million for the new gate through the appropriations process in Fiscal Year 2009, with the total project costing \$1.95 million. The new gate encompasses 300 square feet situated on 3 acres. The facility took 10 months to complete and provides the 121st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces a modernized gate, improving security not only for the Ohio Army and Air National Guard units stationed at Rickenbacker, but for the other tenants who previously were within separate security perimeters, including the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army Reserve



Upgrading Airport Infrastructure

Ohio's county and regional airports provide important travel services to local small businesses, pilots, and visitors. In July, Sen. Brown announced that resources had been awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration to the Morrow County and Knox County airports. The funds for the Morrow County airport will be used to improve the airport's apron. The Knox County airport plans to rehabilitate its runway and install a wildlife perimeter fence. The funding will improve the safety and efficiency of the airports so they can remain reliable options for the region.

Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement

Connecting Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities

Ohio is home to more than 890,000 veterans, the sixth-largest population of veterans in the U.S. Despite their service, too many veterans struggle to find work when their military service ends. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring veterans have the tools they need to find employment.

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and U.S. Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high-demand occupations.

In May, Sen. Brown met with Clark County native and U.S. Marine Sgt. Matthew Demers in Washington to discuss efforts to put veterans back to work. Beginning in July, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP. In Youngstown, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, and Columbus, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance. In September, he was joined in Columbus by Don Grove, an unemployed veteran from Delaware County who served in the Navy for 15 years. Using VRAP funds, Mr. Grove is attending

Columbus State Community College to take courses in Health Information Management Technology.

Welcoming Home Ohio's Heroes

Ohio's servicemembers play an integral role in keeping our country safe and responding to state and national emergencies. A representative from Sen. Brown's office attended the "Hometown Hero's Salute" ceremony at the Springfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) in December. Our servicemembers, who put their lives on the line for their nation, have earned our respect and deep gratitude. Sen. Brown will continue working to ensure that these brave men and women also receive the benefits and care they have so richly earned.

Morrow County Detective Awarded Congressional Badge of Bravery

Every day, we ask our law enforcement officials to put their lives on the line to fight fires and address robberies—to patrol dangerous neighborhoods and investigate violent crimes. While we may never guarantee their safety, in honoring their service we give gratitude for their sacrifice. In January, Sen. Brown joined with Rep. Jim Jordan to award the Congressional Badge of Bravery for heroism to Morrow County Detective Brandon Moore, who was wounded in the line of duty in October 2010.

Detective Moore, a nine-year veteran of the Sheriff's office, was struck five times by open fire in an incident that occurred south of Mount Gilead. Despite his immediate injuries, Detective Moore disabled his assailant, which saved lives and led to three arrests and seizure of marijuana and firearms. The Congressional Badge of Bravery is an annual award given to public safety officers who display bravery in the line of duty. Created under the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008, the award honors the exceptional acts of bravery that law enforcement officers engage in while in the line of duty.

Bolstering Firefighter Safety to Improve Firefighter Preparedness and Response

Firefighters put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe. With so many communities already facing budget shortfalls, critical federal efforts, like the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, are pivotal in keeping Ohio's cities, towns, and communities safe. Sen. Brown announced new resources to bolster firefighter safety in the City of Marion, the Northeast Champaign County Fire District in North Lewisburg, and the Galion Fire Department. The funds will go towards improving operations and safety in the fire departments.

Protecting and Supporting Central Ohio Consumers

Protecting Pets from Tainted Products

Following an increase in tainted pet treats from China leading to animal death and illnesses, Sen. Brown outlined why the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must take quick action to protect consumers and pet owners at the Capital Area Humane Society in Hilliard. He was joined by Holly McCutcheon, whose four year-old dog Jack developed a rash and fell ill after eating chicken jerky pet treats. McCutcheon contacted Sen. Brown after she saw an FDA warning connecting the dog's illness with tainted chicken jerky pet treats imported from China.

At a Senate Appropriations hearing in April, Sen. Brown urged the head of the FDA, Dr. Margaret Hamburg, to take additional measures to protect American consumers from tainted products. Sen. Brown has sent letters to the FDA urging the agency to promptly pursue efforts to find the contaminant in these pet treats and ensure that they are pulled from store shelves and to explain its current procedures for notifying consumers and retailers of pet food safety breaches. The FDA must be as aggressive as possible to find the source of this contamination, which has already led to illness and death among an untold number of pets in Ohio and across our country.

Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare

Protecting Medicare and Social Security

In December, Sen. Brown joined a group of Central Ohio seniors to stand against threats to cut Medicare and Social Security during the fiscal cliff budget negotiations. In Columbus, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare presented Sen. Brown with a petition signed by thousands of Ohio seniors asking leaders in Congress to keep Social Security and Medicare out of the deficit debate. Regina Duffey, a Reynoldsburg-native, discussed how changes to Medicare and Social Security will stretch her already-thin household budget.

Working with Ohio State to Ensure Ohioans Have Access to Medication They Need

When a drug is in short supply, doctors and other healthcare providers are often forced to make tough decisions about how to best treat multiple patients—all in need of a single, hard-to-find drug.



In January, Sen. Brown joined a central Ohio breast cancer patient, doctors, and pharmacists to outline a bill to address drug shortages at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center's James Cancer Hospital. Sen. Brown called on the senate to pass the *Preserving Life-Saving Medications Act*, legislation he cosponsored which would alert of incidents that would likely result in a drug shortage. Sen. Brown convened a roundtable discussion with CEOs, Directors of Pharmacy, and other hospital staffers who confront this problem from around

Ohio to discuss possible solutions to improve patient outcomes. In May, Sen. Brown met with doctors at the OSU Cancer Center to announce that the legislation passed the senate allowing hospital systems to tackle drug shortages, treat more patients, and save more lives.

Promoting Healthcare with the Expansion of OSU's Wexner Medical Center

The expansion of Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center is advancing OSU's legacy of medical innovation while creating thousands of jobs in Central Ohio. In February, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and, Ohio State University President Gordon Gee

joined Sen. Brown to provide a progress report on the construction project at the OSU Wexner Medical Center that could become a national model in health workforce development and medical innovation. They were also joined by a formerly unemployed worker who was hired to work on the expansion. The project has put more than 5,000 Ohioans to work and is expected to create 10,000 full-time jobs by 2014. In May, Sen. Brown marked the milestone as the final beam was placed on the new center. These innovations will ensure that Ohio, and the U.S. remain at the forefront of higher education and biomedical research. In December 2010, Sen. Brown helped to secure funding for the project through a competitive grant program created by the health reform law.

Strengthening Central Ohio Neighborhoods

Bolstering the Housing Market with New Strategies



To help recover from the housing crisis, Sen. Brown is working to speed up the home-buying process and make it easier for qualified candidates to purchase homes. In April, Sen. Brown visited Columbus to unveil a new plan to address the lengthy closing process that often comes with short sales. Short sales are real estate transactions that require bank approval because a seller owes more than the proposed sale price. Sen. Brown's bill would require banks to respond in a timely manner when such offers are made.

In Columbus, Sen. Brown was joined by a homeowner whose home has been on the market for nearly two years. Because of the long wait for bank approval, two offers failed. Sen. Brown's legislation, the *Prompt Notification of Short Sale Act*, would improve the process by requiring banks to respond in a timely manner during house sales.

This eliminates the waiting associated with short sales and will hopefully help bolster the housing market and economic recovery. In April, the Federal Housing Finance Agency announced that it will require mortgage servicers to review and respond to short sale requests within 30 days of an offer on the property and make a final decision within 60 days of receiving the offer.

Developing Licking County Brownfield Site to Protect Health and the Environment

Ohio's brownfield sites can be opportunities for redevelopment and new growth. In May, Sen. Brown announced that a Licking County community will receive new resources to rehabilitate contaminated land, create jobs, and protect Ohioans' health. The City of Newark was awarded funding to clean up Ohio brownfields by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants. Cleanup grants will fund rehabilitation activities at brownfield sites that have been contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. According to the EPA, recipients of assessment grants can use the funds to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Marking the Bicentennial of Ohio's Capital City

In 2012, the City of Columbus commenced a year-long bicentennial celebration with the theme 'Honor the Past. Celebrate the Present. Envision the Future.' In February, Sen. Brown joined with Sen. Portman to introduce a resolution marking the 200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Columbus. This resolution honoring Ohio's capital city was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. It celebrates Columbus' rich history, as well as the city's economic, cultural, educational, and artistic contributions from the past 200 years.

Supporting Central Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy

Calling for a Bipartisan, Five-year Farm Bill



In August, Sen. Brown visited the Ohio State Fair with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack. Sen. Brown and Sec. Vilsack attended the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame breakfast, viewed the Junior Beef Marketing show, and visited the Agriculture and Horticulture building. At the fair, Sen. Brown also renewed his call for a five-year farm bill that provides critical assistance to farmers. Sen. Brown also met with farmers and agricultural producers in London, Ohio to tour the Ohio State

University's Farm Science Review in September.

Increasing Accessibility to Locally-Grown Foods

Helping farmers sell their products directly to consumers can create jobs and increase the availability of nutritious, locally-grown foods to all Ohioans. Sen. Brown's office held a forum entitled "Ohio Grown: Local Food Creating Local Opportunities." The forum brought together USDA and OSU Extension at The Ohio State University in Columbus to address Ohio's burgeoning local food movement and efforts to shape food policy to benefit local economies. Sen. Brown invited USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan to deliver the keynote address, which focused on increasing access to locally-grown and healthy food. In addition, Oran Hesterman, president and CEO of Fair Food Network, discussed his efforts to promote better food systems that assure equal access to healthy, affordable foods for all income levels.

Expanding Resources for Logan County Farmers

Ohio's farmers markets bring new customers to farmers and agricultural producers while increasing access to healthy foods. In September, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources that will help farmers expand markets and increase access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown foods in Logan County. The Logan County Farmers Market will receive a grant to expand and improve the market in Zanesfield. The grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion Program and will allow the Logan County Farmers Market to include more vendors and gain more customers while maintaining the high-quality produce residents rely on.